

OLL85-3096/1  
16 October 1985

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director, Office of Security  
  
Chief, Administrative Law Division  
Office of General Counsel

FROM:   
Legislation Division  
Office of Legislative Liaison

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SUBJECT: Response to Congressman Hyde on Security  
Background Investigations

1. Congressman Henry Hyde has written a letter to the Director requesting his views on an article published in the Washington Post on security background investigations. The author of the article, Allan Goodman, contends that background investigations typically do not turn up information relevant to making a security determination on an individual. The reason for this, according to Mr. Goodman, is that investigators do not ask the right questions and talk to the wrong people. Mr. Goodman also notes that this security approval system is overloaded with a quarter of a million requests for clearances annually, and this prevents thorough background checks. A copy of Congressman Hyde's letter and the Goodman article are attached at Tab A.

2. Attached at Tab B is a proposed response I have drafted for the Director. The Director's letter notes several legislative and administrative steps that can be taken to improve the security approval process. I would appreciate your review of this letter and any comments you may have. I would particularly welcome any additional proposals you may have to strengthen the security clearance process. It is necessary to have your comments by 21 October so that we may formulate a timely response to the Congressman.

Attachments as  
stated

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